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RUEHKA/AMEMBASSY DHAKA 3513  
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RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 6785  
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 2775  
RUEHCI/AMCONSUL CALCUTTA 1698  
RUEHCG/AMCONSUL CHENNAI 1467  
RUEHKP/AMCONSUL KARACHI 2289  
RUEHLH/AMCONSUL LAHORE 2117  
RUEHBI/AMCONSUL MUMBAI 0726  
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RUEIDN/DNI WASHINGTON DC  
RHHMUNA/CDR USPACOM HONOLULU HI  
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 9142  
RHMFISS/HQ USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL  
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 1297  
RHHMUNA/HQ USPACOM HONOLULU HI  
RHMFISS/HQ USSOCOM MACDILL AFB FL  
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 NEW DELHI 001171

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 02/14/2016

TAGS: [MASS PREL MARR MOPS PINS IN AF](#)

SUBJECT: AFGHAN MILITARY DONATIONS: GOI READY BUT NEEDS A  
PUSH FROM GOA

REF: STATE 22896

Classified By: Ambassador David C. Mulford for reasons 1.4 (B,D)

11. (U) This is an ACTION REQUEST. Please see para 6.

12. (C) Ambassador presented reftel appeal for assistance to the ANA to Minister of State for External Affairs Anand Sharma on February 14 (septel), noting India's generous contribution of vehicles for the ANA and suggesting that New Delhi might build on this precedent with additional equipment for the Afghan Army and police. (Comment: We are focusing our appeal for now on Afghanistan, looking ahead to a visit to Delhi by President Karzai expected for March. End Comment).

GOI INTERESTED, BUT THOUGHT USG OPPOSED INDIAN AID  
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13. (C) Bearing in mind the looming POTUS visit and our ongoing discussion of Afghanistan-related deliverables, the MEA acted quickly on this appeal. On February 15, MEA Joint Secretary (Americas) Jaishankar told the DCM that India was

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interested in the US appeal, but was somewhat confused, since the Indian Embassy in Kabul has been told by their Afghan government interlocutors that the USG is advising the GOA not to accept any form of military assistance from New Delhi. What is the real US policy, Jaishankar asked.

14. (C) PolCouns explained the US view that Indian "boots on the ground" would be disruptive at this point, since it could stimulate a process of competitive meddling by other Afghan neighbors. This is not just a US concern, we added, but

reflects also the perspective of President Karzai. However, PolCouns noted, the Ambassador's request for material assistance to the ANA was delivered on instructions, and we would welcome a positive Indian reply.

AFGHAN (AND IRAQI) GOVERNMENTS SHOULD MAKE THE REQUEST  
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¶5. (C) Jaishankar emphasized that "nobody serious in the Indian government is thinking about boots on the ground." There is no way, he added, that anybody in the Indian government would "want to do something that the Afghans viewed unfavorably." Against this background of confusing signals about US intentions, Jaishankar noted, it would be helpful if someone in the Afghan government could approach the Indian Embassy in Kabul to convey the ANA's needs. He added that the same applies to Iraq, where the Indians have yet to receive any requests from the government in Baghdad paralleling US suggestions in New Delhi and Washington. PolCouns explained the US role, working through Combined Forces Command, Afghanistan (CFC-A), as the coordinating donor for training and equipping the ANA, and reiterated that we would be pleased to put India's equipment experts in contact with CENTCOM's project managers.

ACTION REQUEST  
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¶6. (C) We have a good window of opportunity to move ahead on this issue of ANA assistance before the Karzai visit to Delhi. To follow-up on this conversation in Delhi, mission suggests that Embassy Kabul be instructed to approach the GOA and Indian Embassy in Kabul encouraging further Indian

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hardware grants to the ANA and Afghan police building on the GOI's successful ANA trucks program.

¶7. (U) Visit New Delhi's Classified Website:  
(<http://www.state.sgov.gov/p/sa/newdelhi/>)  
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